

USAGE PATTERN OF E – RESOURCES AMONG THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF SHIMOGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, SHIMOGA: A STUDY

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Received: 27 Sep 2018

Accepted: 03 Oct 2018

Published: 12 Oct 2018

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the usage pattern of e-resources by faculty members who are working in the Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shimoga. In this study, it is trying to understand the purpose of using E-resources and frequency of access to the internet by the faculty members of SIMS. The study also highlights about the usage of types of medical e-resources, usage of web browsers and search engines by the faculty members of SIMS. The satisfaction level among faculty members of SIMS towards the E-resources and barriers in use of E-resources has been identified in this study.

KEYWORDS: E – Resources, Online Databases, Bibliographic Databases, E- Books, E - Journals, HELINET

INTRODUCTION

The developments in Information and Communication Technology changed in all fields of education with transacting of the information society to the digital world where people access and use information every day faster and easier. E-resources have become highly important learning and teaching aids in almost every field of science and technology. It has created a huge revolution in the field of medical publication, data storage and retrieval as a new medium. In medical education, they are of particular interest for the study of anatomy. In this field, the availability of visual information is essential to obtain a functional three-dimensional (3D) image of the human body and its tissues. The remarkable growth of medical information publication available in various formats as fast as possible is requisite which definitely requires information and communication technology. In order to work in fulfillment with this evolution, medical teaching faculty needs the awareness, skills for management of information and communication effectively and efficiently and the ability to make use of various facilities and equipment in the electronic databases. Also, with the advance of e-resources collection in various medical institutions are growing, presently we see the increasing demand of e-resources by medical teaching faculty members in the competitive time of education and research in all over the world. E-resources have become as boons to the medical teaching faculty members and attract them in the digital environments in their limited amount of time. Use of e-resources by medical teaching faculty members may up-to-date knowledge in their respective subject field and to improve the quality of learning, rising rapidly and play a vital role in education and research.

Background

Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences started during 2005 in 25 acres of land, in the premises of Government Mc. Gann Hospital at Shimoga. The Institute located in Bangalore-Honnava National high-way 206, The total floor area available, including College, Boys & Girls Hostels, Doctors quarters, about 34488 square meters. The Teaching Hospital of the Medical College, The Government Mc. Gann Hospital constructed by British Administrator during 1880 in 70 acres. During 1991-92 the new general hospital block with 367 beds capacity has been constructed, The floor area of the Government Mc. Gann Hospital available is 31340 sq. meters. The Institute is fully equipped Laboratories, Museums, Examination Hall, Auditorium, Lecture Halls, Library Gymnasium, Staff, and Faculty.

The SIMS, Shimoga is one among the foremost of the institutes of national importance in higher and advanced medical education. This institute has a prestige of being one of the great medical institutions in basic and higher applied medical research. The institute was established by the Govt. of Karnataka. The library of SIMS is taken to be regarded as active service-oriented library as it effectively contributes to the hospitals' primary mission of providing patients with the best possible care and by supporting the delivery of patient care by providing physicians, health care professionals, nurses, technologists, etc., with library services to meet their informational, educational and research related needs. The SIMS is a big institute with large faculty, executive officers, PG's research scholars, and other supporting staff in hundreds. To serve the objectives of patient care, education, and research, the SIMS is developing its library as an effective information center. The SIMS Library is located on the faculty block (1st floor), centrally accessible location. The collection of SIMS Library is currently 19,200 books, 16000 bound volumes, 200 current journals, and 1400 thesis. SIMS library subscribed 4585 online journals and 3322 digital resources for library users in the year 2012. It also provides OPAC service to its users.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are numbers of studies on the use of e-resources by faculty members.

Achonna in his research found use of e-journal resources was low. Lack of skills, inadequate provision of computers and power outage etc. were the problems faced in the use of e-resources. A study concluded the need for the training skills, provision of adequate computers, need to popularize IT and its usage and to motivate the students to use e-journal resources.

Joteen Singh, et al. executed a study on the use of internet-based e-resources at Manipur University to examine the use of e-information focusing on the internet services by postgraduate students, research scholars, teachers, and non-teaching staff members. Users were using the internet mainly to download information from web-based resources and web-sites. Lack of power supply and the low-speed internet access were general problems faced by users in accessing information from web-based resources.

Bashorun, et al., found that the frequency of use of e-resources by teaching staff was low, as most of the faculty time is spent on teaching. The study also pointed out some of the problems like lack of awareness to users about electronic resources provided by the library, lack of electricity supply to use the computer, slow speed of the network, and inadequate searching skills. Kumar & Kumar⁶ found, in his study of medical and management colleges in Bangalore that the users are well aware of e-resources and prefer to use the internet.

METHODOLOGY

The structured questionnaire has been distributed among the 112 faculty members of Shimoga Institute of Medical Science, Shimoga. All the 112 questionnaires have been collected from the respondents for the data analysis and interpretations. On the basis of these questionnaires, the data has been analyzed and tabulated using MS Excel.

OBJECTIVES

- To Understand the frequency of using the library by faculty members
- To analyze the respondents' extent of access to e-resources.
- To find out the different types of E-resources used by the faculty members.
- To find out the different types of online medical databases used by the faculty members.
- To study the purpose of using the E-resources by the faculty members.
- To identify the problems faced by faculty members while using electronic resources.

Data Analysis

Information collected from the faculty members through questionnaires were analysis systematically tabulated, interpreted and presented in the following paragraphs.

Table 1: Designation Wise Distribution of Respondents

Designation	No. of Respondents
Professors	22 (19.6%)
Associate Professors	40 (35.8%)
Assistant Professors/Lecturers	50 (44.6%)
Total	112 (100%)

Table 1 shows the designation wise distribution of respondents. It indicates that out of a total 112 respondents, 44.6% belong to the Assistant Professors/Lecturers category, 35.8% belong to the Associate Professors and 19.6% belong to the Professors category.

Table 2: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

Age- Group	No. of Respondents N=112
Below 30	36 (32.1%)
31-40	39 (34.8%)
41-50	15 (13.4%)
Above 51	22 (19.7%)

Table 2 depicts the age wise distribution of respondents. Out of a total 112 respondents, majority 34.8% of respondents is in the age of 31-40 and only 19.7% of respondents are in the age of above 51

Table 3: Frequency of Library Visit

Designation	Daily	Thrice a Week	Once in a Week	Once in Fortnight
Professors	2	4	9	7
Associate Professors	12	8	10	10
Lecturers/Assistant Professors	18	12	16	4
Total (N=112)	32(28.5%)	24(21.4%)	35 (31.3%)	21(18.8%)

It is evident (table 3) that 31.3% of the respondents visit the library once in a week; 28.5% of the respondents visit daily; 21.4% of the respondents visit thrice in a week; only 18.8% of the respondents visit once in the fortnight.

Table 4: Frequency of Access to Internet

Designation	Daily	Thrice a week	Once in a week	Once in Fortnight
Professors	11	6	3	2
Associate Professors	24	10	3	3
Lecturers/Assistant Professors	28	12	7	3
Total (N=112)	63(56.3%)	28 (25%)	13 (11.7%)	9 (8%)

Table 4 reveals that majority 56.3% the respondents access the internet daily, 25% of the respondents access the internet thrice a week, 11.7% of the respondents access the internet once in a week and only 8% of the respondents access the internet once in the fortnight.

Table 5: Use of Web Browsers

Sl No.	Web Browsers	No. Faculties (Total N= 112)
1	Google Chrome	82 (73.2%)
2	Mozilla Fire fox	12 (10.7%)
3	Internet Explorer	6 (5.3%)
4	Opera	4 (3.6%)
5	UC Browsers	4 (3.6%)
6	Netscape Browsers	4 (3.6%)

From table 5, it is observed that 73.2% of the respondents are using Google Chrome, whereas 10.7% of the respondents are using Mozilla Firefox. 5.3% of the respondents are using internet explorer and only 3.6% are using opera, UC Browsers, and Netscape browsers respectively.

Table 6: Use of Search Engines

Sl No.	Search Engines	No. Faculties (Total N= 112)
1	Google	86 (76.8%)
2	Altavista	10 (9%)
3	Ask.com	8 (7%)
4	Bing	4 (3.6%)
5	Rediff	2 (1.8%)
6	Yahoo	2 (1.8%)

From table 6, it is observed that 76.8% of the respondents are using Google like search engines for getting information from the internet, whereas 9% of the respondents are using Altavista. 7% of the respondents are using Ask.com, 3.6% of the respondents are using Bing and only 1.8% is using Rediff and Yahoo as search engines respectively.

Table 7: Types of Medical E-Resources Used

E-Resources	Designation			Total N=112
	Professors	Associate Professors	Asst. Professors/Lecturers	
E-Books	8 (13.3%)	20 (33.4%)	32 (53.4%)	60 (53.5%)
E-Journals	18 (23%)	26 (33.4%)	34(43.5%)	78 (69.6%)
E-Newspaper	12 (16.9%)	34 (47.8%)	25 (32.0%)	71 (63.4%)
E-Magazines	6 (10%)	32 (53.4%)	22 (36.7%)	60 (53.5%)
E-Thesis	14 (20.5%)	26 (38.2%)	28 (41.1%)	68 (60.7%)
E-Databases	12 (17.3%)	28 (40.5%)	29 (42.0%)	69 (61.6%)
E-Reports	10 (17.2%)	22 (37.9%)	26 (44.8%)	58 (51.8%)

Table 7 shows the use of different types of electronic resources by the respondents. Among the different types of E-resources, E-Journals E-Newspaper and E-Databases are using by 69.6%, 63.4%, and 61.6% respondents respectively. 51.8% and 53.5% of respondents are using E-reports and E-books respectively. From the above it can be observed that Asst. Professors /Lecturers are more using E-books, E-journals, E-thesis, E-databases, E-reports compared to Professors and Associate Professors. In case of usage of E-newspaper and E-magazines, Associate Professors are more using compared to Professors and Assistant professors/Lecturers.

Table 8: Purpose of using E-Resources

Sl No.	Purpose	No. Faculties (Total N= 112)
1	For preparation class teaching	72 (64.2%)
2	Education	39 (34.8%)
3	For Research	55 (49.1%)
4	Patient Care	45 (40.1%)
5	Health Information	56 (50%)
6	Entertainment	25 (22.3%)

The above Table – 8 highlights that, majority 64.2% of the respondents are using E-resources for the purpose of preparing for class teaching and only 22.3% of respondents are using e-resources for the purpose of entertainment.

Table 9: Satisfaction Level of Faculty Members on E-Resources

Satisfaction Level	Professors	Associate Professors	Asst. Professors/Lecturers	Total N=112
Very Satisfied	6 (12.6%)	22 (45.8%)	20 (41.6%)	48 (42.9%)
Some What Satisfied	10 (22.7%)	16 (36.3%)	18 (41.0%)	44 (39.2%)
Dissatisfied	6 (30.0%)	2 (10.0%)	12 (60.0%)	20 (17.9%)

The above table-9 shows that out of total 112 respondents 42.9% of respondents are very satisfied towards the E-resources available in their library whereas 39.2% and 17.9% of respondents are somewhat satisfied and dissatisfied respectively. It can be pointed out that 45.8% of Associate Professors and 41% of Asst. Professors/Lecturers are very satisfied and somewhat satisfied respectively towards the E-resources facility available in the library.

Table 10: Use of E-Resources through Consortia Based Online Medical Databases

Database	Professors	Associate Professors	Asst. Professors/Lecturers	Total N=112
HELINET	8 (20.5%)	12 (30.8%)	19 (48.7%)	39 (34.8%)
EDUMED	5 (19.2%)	9 (34.6%)	12 (46.2%)	26 (23.2%)

Table 9 shows the use of E-resources through consortia based online medical databases. It is evident from the table that 34.8% of respondents are accessing HELINET for information and only 23.2% of respondents are accessing

EDUMED for information. From this table, it can be noted that only Assistant Professors/Lectures are more using HELNET and EDUMED Database compared to Professors and Associate Professors. It also presupposes that the members of faculty need orientation from time to time in order to use effectively medical databases made available through the consortia.

Table 11: Barriers in using E-Resources

Sl No.	Barriers	No. Faculties (Total N= 112)
1	Lack of IT Knowledge	12 (10.7%)
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	20(17.8%)
3	Lack of Subject Coverage	18 (16.0%)
4	Lack of training	24(21.4%)
5	Lack of time	32 (28.5%)
6	Slow access speed	15 (13.4%)
7	Information Overload	17 (15.17%)
8	Easy and convenient to print media	5 (4.5%)

Table 11 shows the problem faced by the respondents for using electronic resources. It is evident (table 9) that the major barriers in using E-resources were lack of time 28.5%; Lack of training 21.4%; difficulty in finding relevant information 17.8%; Lack of Subject Coverage 16%; Information Overload 15.17% and slow access speed 13.4%

Findings of the Study

The major findings of the study are as follows:

- Majority of the respondents belong to the Assistant Professor/Lecturers Category.
- More than 34.8% of respondents are in the age of 31-40 and more than 31.3% of the respondents visit the library once a week.
- Majority of the respondents access the internet daily (56.3%)
- Maximum number of respondents, i.e., 73.2% of the respondents are using Google Chrome and 76.8% of the respondents are using Google like search engines for getting information from the internet
- Majority 69.6% of the respondents are using E-Journals. This shows that the maximum number of respondents are preferring E-journals compared to other types of E-resources.
- Majority 64.2% of the respondents are using E-resources for the purpose of preparing for class teaching.
- More than 82% of respondents are satisfied and somewhat satisfied towards the E-resources available in the library.
- HELNET usage response rate is high when we compared to EDUMED usage response from the respondents.
- The major reasons for less use of electronic resources were lack of time and lack of training in finding relevant information at the earliest.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study examines the usage pattern of e-resources among the faculty members of Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shimoga. The study shows the use of E-resources is very common among the faculty members of SIMS. The most of the faculty members are satisfied and somewhat satisfied with available E-resources and IT-based services offered by library and information center. It can be concluded that more awareness should be created among the faculty members about the availability of the electronic resources and electronic services offered by the library and information center .

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